contra FLOW

Feb/Mar 1995
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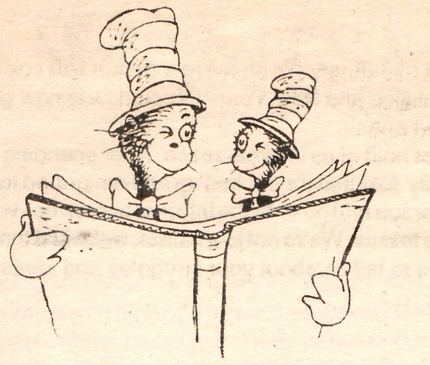


WE'LL BE BACK

On december 1st at 7.30am police and sheriff officers smashed their way in to evict 'the centre', an autonomous community centre in Broughton St. Edinburgh. Supporters quickly gathered outside to resist the removal of the centre users group property by Lothian council workers. After 6 hours the police brought in re-inforcements and 21 people were arrested as 70 officers violently forced the crowd away from the entrance.

The centre was set up in 1981 by left-labour as an Unemployed Workers Centre in response to mass unemployment. Despite labour and trade union dominance the centre evolved into a focus for independent unwaged activists with claimants direct action, anti-workfare and anti-poll tax campaigns.
By march 1992 the labour and trade union bureaucrats had lost control of the centre, and broke in taking away £25,000 worth of equipment including the printing press, computers, a washing machine for the homeless, the donation tin and even the teabags!
The centre continued as a self-managed community centre committed to oppose social injustice and promote the idea of people running their own lives. The labour controlled Lothian council, the Centres landlord, refused to renew the lease which ran out in June 1994 and the centre was squatted.
The issue is about power and control, Lothian councils attempt to destroy the centre is part of a global attack on autonomous social centres by those who's only interest is maintaining and increasing their own power. This attack on the centres vital services (cheap vegan cafe, advice and solidarity on benefit and poll/council tax, creche, workshops, bookstall, meeting/social space, Peoples Art project, free tea and coffee and a drop in centre...) can't be tolerated.

Since the eviction the centre has moved into temporary premises in St. Stephens Centre and is distributing free food and information at lunchtime outside 103 Broughton St.
On december 10th 200-250 centre supporters rallied outside the evicted building, now boarded up with steel panels and protected by private security guards, and declared that the centre would re-open.

Many of the Centres previous activities continue including the peoples art project, advice and solidarity on benefits and poll/council tax hassles, meeting space and the drop in facility.
Contact the Centre on 031 557 0427 or write c/o The Peace and Justice Centre, St. Johns, Princes St., Edinburgh.

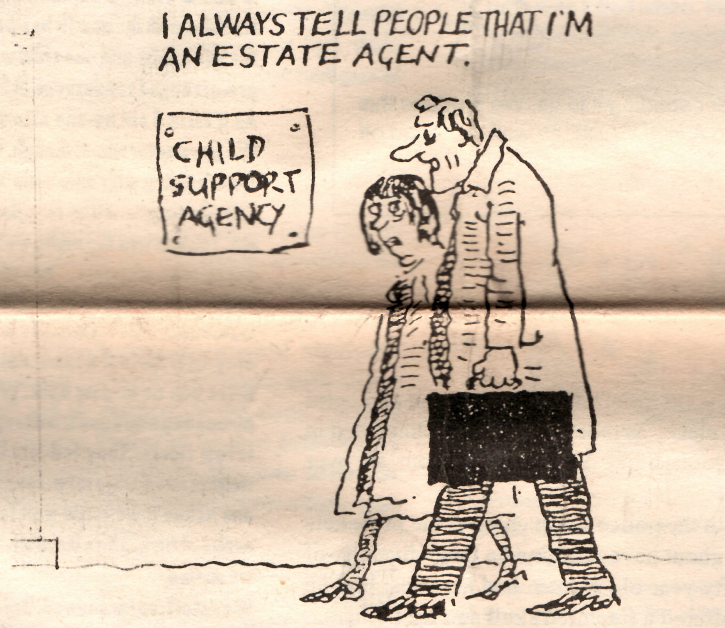
The new Centre is in the basement of St. Stephens Centre, Stephen St., Stockbridge (ring the basement bell!)

Viva
la
In
Centre!

CSA • COMPLETELY SCREWED UP ACT

Despite the attempts to tinker with it, by announcing some concessions, the Child Support Act (CSA) looks like it's going the same way as that other great ideological flag-ship of austerity, the poll tax. It's collapsing due to mass non-cooperation.

Just before Christmas the agency's chief executive, Ann Chant, decided to indefinitely postpone the processing of 350,000 (!) cases. No action will be taken on some 300,000 cases where a single mother has been living on income support before April 1993 and the agency has not yet approached the father. The agency has so far imposed benefit cuts on 10,900 single mothers for failing/refusing to cooperate, but no action will be taken in a further 50,000 such cases. Apparently the 350,000 cases will be dealt with when 400,000 other cases already on their books which haven't yet produced any child maintenance orders have been processed - such faith these bureaucrats have!


I ALWAYS TELL PEOPLE THAT I'M AN ESTATE AGENT.
CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Arch apologist for the CSA, Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for (attacking) One Parent Families, said that the announcement was "a devastating blow to all those lone parents who looked to the CSA to get the maintenance they so badly need to escape the poverty trap". The reality is that most lone parents get nothing at best, as any maintenance is taken out of their benefits - ie it goes straight to the treasury.. At worst they get hassle, benefit cuts, unwanted contact with possibly abusive ex-partners etc.

The changes announced in January, obviously designed to defuse opposition from tory-voting fathers, are unlikely to halt the massive resistance to the CSA.

The 3rd edition of the CSA rights handbook is now avaible from Legal Action for Women, 71, Tonbridge St, London, WC1H 9DZ. £3 to claimants, £12 to law practices and funded groups, £6 to anyone else.

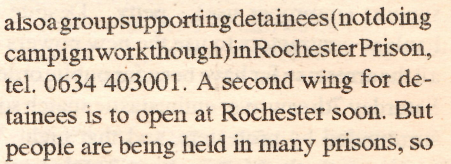
TOWER HAMLETS NINE TRIAL

The trial of the Tower Hamlets Nine started on Feb 6th at Southwark Crown Court. The nine young asians were charged after a police attack on a community vigil for Quddus Ali, the young asian lad attacked and put in a coma, by racists in Stepney, East London. Recently the only one of twenty white youths questioned about the attack on Quddus, appeared in court. The Tower Hamlets Nine have issued a statement welcoming this, but drawing people's attention to the racist priorities of the police and Crown Prosecutors: charges against other white suspects have been dropped, fucked up, and the police investigation has been lukewarm to say the least. The nine are facing Judge Brown, a notorious 'hanging' judge, so while they will possibly get convicted for defending themselves and their community, it's yet to be seen if the attacker of Quddus Ali will - racist attackers have a habit of getting off. We wish the Tower Hamlets 9 all the best for the trial. We will carry on fighting racists whoever they are, with whatever weapons we need.

Contact: the Tower Hamlets 9 Defence Campaign, PO Box 273, London, E7. Tel 081 548 0099.

DETAINEES UPDATE

The detention and deportation of asylum seekers and refugees from repressive regimes continues in Britain, with the building of new prison wings to hold the ever increasing hundreds held. Recently Kani Yilmaz, european representative of the kurdish PKK nationalist movement, was even arrested in the Palace of Westminster, where he'd been invited to talk to Labour MPs. He's being held pending deportation to Germany so he can be charged with membership of an illegal organisation! Meanwhile resistance is slowly growing to detentions here. The well-established Campaign against Campsfield Detention centre near Oxford marched from Oxford to London in December, linking up with community groups in Slough and Southall on the way, and handing in a 5000-signature petition to the Home Office. They also held a Christmas demo in Oxford, alternating carol-singing with people acting being dragged off and detained by mock police. There are plans for a campaign against Harmondsworth Detention Centre, if anyone in the Slough/Ealing/Southall area wants to get involved, contact them on 081 571 5019. In Portsmouth a campaign is being organised through the Trades Council against Haslar Detention Centre, they can be contacted on 0705 832260. There is alsoagroupsupportingdetainees(notdoing campignworkthough)inRochesterPrison, tel. 0634 403001. A second wing for detainees is to open at Rochester soon. But people are being held in many prisons, so if you know of detainees without support, get involved or get in touch.



We know there are poeple detained in Brixton Prison in South London, anyone in touch with anyone or interested in starting a campaign in that area, drop Contraflow a line. Campaign against Campsfield, c/o 111 Magdalen rd, Oxford.

CONSPIRACY: This issue of Contraflow comes to you a week late, the original artwork *disappeared* on the way to the printers, the Post Office claim the van 'caught fire' but we know otherwise...

INSIDE:

★ PUNISHMENT and POLICE MURDERS ★ SHEEP and SURVIVORS
★ CRITICAL MASS ★ WHO'S WHO and WHAT'S ON

• APOLOGIES....

First we want to apologise for the non-existence of January. Yeah we're a month late cos we got a bit out of synch due to holidays and partying over the Solstice and New Year . Contraflow is now going back to bi-monthly so you know when to look out for the next one.

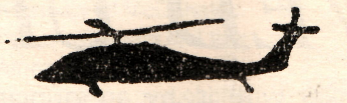
Apologies also to anyone who's been trying to get hold of us in cyberspace. After spending much time ourselves trying to get into FastBreeder we were finally told that it's packed up and emigrated to the New World somewhere. So we're going to cut out the middleperson and go onto the Internet ourselves - watch this space. No apologies for the lack of news - you should have told us. We're not journalists, we're just fun-loving activists who want to bring this paper out, but we need you to tell us about your struggles and ideas.

• HOW WE DONE IT

We get material for ***contra*FLOW** through the European Counter Network (an exchange of news and stuff via computer/modem), through our fax (0171-326-0353) and through magazines and our own involvement in events and struggles.

We appeal for news from your particular thing esp. if you don't think our paper covers it. We are not journalists and some of us are pretty shy, so you can't expect us to write about everything that's happening. ***contra*FLOW** has limited space but don't be put off from sending longer stuff. Material that doesn't get into the paper, may be put into E.C.N and whizz around the world to groups that would find it useful.

• DISTRIBUTION



You can help us distribute ***contra*FLOW** by taking bundles of 5, 10, 50 etc from us and putting them about in schools, colleges, workplaces, gigs, demos etc. Send some stamps and we'll post them to you. Or you can pick them up from

• **56a Infoshop** 56 Crampton St, Elephant & Castle, London SE17
Mon, Thu, Fri from 3-7pm

• **121 Books**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24 Sat from 1-5pm (but phone first 0171-274-6655)

Or you can receive the lastest issue direct from us via the Post and MI5 if you send us a stamped enveloped. One SAE equals one issue, 2 for 2 etc..

• CASH FOR SALE

Tell us about it! If you've got some spare and don't want it, then consider sending it to us. We produce this paper voluntarily and rely on donations. We accept cheques (payable to A.HODSON), as well as ripped off office equipment.

I WILL SURVIVE !

A group of survivors of sexual abuse have gotten together and formed a new political pressure group called the Survivors Coalition. The idea for the group was born out of our frustration at the problems we face as survivors such as trying to get compensation for our abuse, attempts to take criminal action against our abusers, the massive media coverage of the so-called False Memory Syndrome and the general lack of respect shown to us as survivors by the system and the media.

As the Coalition grows we want to be able to take on a range of political activities from direct action work to lobbying for legal changes. The Coalition involves both female and male survivors of abuse as we wanted this to be a group that would be inclusive of all survivors and all organisations in the survivors community. However, there is room for women-only organising within the survivors coalition.

We hope that many survivors will want to channel their anger at their abuse into doing political action and will join us!

The Survivors Coalition is currently running a campaign to change the law as it relates to survivors claiming compensation for sexual abuse. Due to the Limitations Act, survivors must claim for compensation within six years of having been abused or having turned eighteen.

Parliament and the Press are obviously being swayed by the British False Memory creeps so feminists and survivors need to go on the offensive to counter the work of the BFMS. The Coalition is asking survivors of sexual abuse and their supporters to write letters immediately to their MP outlining their support for a change in the law.

The Survivors Coaltion meets on the first Sunday of the month at 1PM at Manor Gardens Community Centre, 6-9 Manor Gardens, N7. They can be contacted c/o Rights of Women, 52-54 Featherstone St, EC1.

CHARMING!

Critical Mass

It was a bit of a shambles from the start, teething troubles with the new fisher-price child seat, meant that the two adults and one child would not make the secret pre-arranged rendezvous at Crampton St. by 5.30 pm. As it turned out no-one else made it at all.

We were determined though, to see '94 out in style, our lycra bulging with mince pie enhanced physiques, our attitude toughened by long dark nights on the Old Kent Rd. Tonight was the night, we were going to show those pesky town planners. "two wheels good!" and all that. There was no one at Waterloo roundabout either. We went down to the National Film Theatre. There were tens of cyclists there. I'd spent ages hyping my daughter, so there was no turning back. We approached the group, pumped up a tyre and tried to open conversation with our fellow riders. They fell into two broad groups, bored women and boring men. I suggested moving off, someone asked if we could wait for his friends who should arrive at 6ish. Since it could have doubled our numbers, we waited.

We set off, so far so good. Unfortunately, the rider at the front, missed the exit for the West End, where all the fun was. Wearily, in worsening drizzle, we weaved toward Walworth. I put a spurt on, desperate to lead us away from the Elephant and Castle. We reached the New Kent Road by a circuitous route, as if to prove there was no leader, command structure, plan, map or reason.

The Bricklayers Arms roundabout was OK, there was up to 30 of us which was enough to allow us to pile on to it without a care. Someone suggested Tower Bridge, second exit. Cool, we were all fonzies.

Just before the lights at Grange Road, a polite Metro, sorry, police Metro stopped, and a reckless rookie demanded of one of our number, 'what's going on?' Priceless huh? (give them all guns) He was ignored, by all

THAT'LL SHOREHAM!

'Live exports' seem to be on everyones lips these days, and it's given the Met. a chance to get a couple of weeks holiday at the 5 star Metropole Hotel on Brighton seafront, as well as getting the boot in on some elses territory.

The protests at Shoreham against exports of live calves to Dieppe started on January 2nd, and after two succesful nights of stopping the trucks police were drafted in from Sussex, Kent, Essex, Thames Valley, Inner London and Surrey outnumbering protesters by 6-1 at times.

This increased police prescence did allow the trucks to get through, but didn't stop local people and others turning up in their hundreds. There have been numerous scuffles and arrests ranging from section 5 to affray; one bloke for laughing and two for protesting his arrest! Motorists are being fined £20 for beeping support (improper use) - petty. Despite calls from haulage contractors to use the new powers of the CJA all the arrests so far have been for public order offences. Saturday 7th saw over enthusiastic snatch squads being surrounded by protesters, and that night 30 activists took a trip to the Metropol(ic)e hotel about 20 went in and made themselves comfortable, the few hundred off duty riot cops in the hotel had other ideas and a forceful eviction took place, as more uniformed police piled in the seafront looked like Shoreham harbour all over again.

On Sunday 8th the police baton charged the protesters (which throughout have contained a huge diversity of people); a fifty year old women had her wrist broken and a man suffered a fractured skull amongst others.

William Waldergrave's farm near Bath was the focus for a mass tresspass against live exports and the CJA on the 14th.

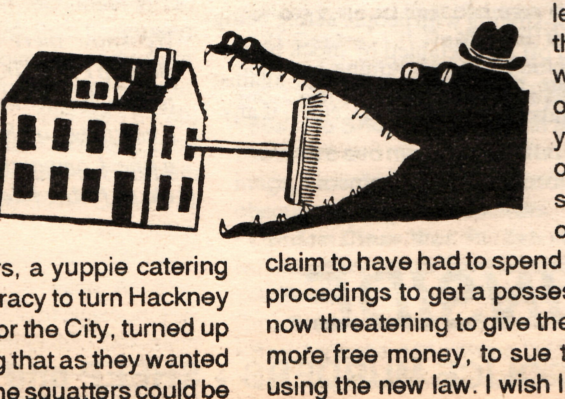
After cancelling their contract with the exporters on 19th January the Port Authorities changed their mind - exports continue on a day to day basis with renewed police backing. The council are now trying to stop the exports, claiming the ships don't have planning permission to dock!

Thehollow victory at Shoreham shows that with money and police protection they will continue to do what they want, but transport and distribution are still a weak link in the system. They can move their money around in cyberspace, but physical things need moving physically, through our streets, space that could be ours. Let's get out there and take what we need...

CRIMINAL INJUSTICE STOPPED

At the start of December, travellers who had been evicted from the Hackney bus garage squat (where many a fine party was held) were threatened with immediate eviction from their new squat under the Criminal Justice Act. They had taken over an empty warehouse, office (with a lovely shower) and yard previously owned by a scaffolding company. The new owners, a yuppie catering firm, part of the conspiracy to turn Hackney into a service station for the City, turned up with the cops, claiming that as they wanted to start building work the squatters could be evicted immediately. The squatters negotiated 24 hours to get out, and ran around getting advice.

The next morning, the cops (who had been told by phone that they couldn't evict) turned up, but the squatters were ready with enough legal info to send them on their way, muttering "if our guvnor wants you out, you're out", never to be seen again. The owners, who claim to have had to spend £4,000 on court procedings to get a possession order, are now threatening to give their lawyers even more free money, to sue the cops for not using the new law. I wish I were a lawyer.



CARRY ON SQUATTING

Squatting is still legal. The bits of the CJA relating to squatting won't be in force till February at the very earliest, and make it harder, not a crime. The owners and cops thought they could use section 68 (which has come in) on 'aggravated trespass' as the squatters were supposedly stopping the lawful activity of building work. This is crap, not only because the section specifically relates to land, not buildings, but also as they were squatting to live, not to stop anything. They also threatened to use section 61 for having 6 or more vehicles, but this is also for open land, so hard luck.

Get clued up, get connected, join the resistance. Let ASS or Squash know about any other (ab)uses of the new laws (see Contacts).

RESULTS: As at 27/1 those known to have been nicked under the CJA were; 95 Hunt Sabs, 11 Travellers, 7 Road Protestors and 2 Tree Defenders.

GO TO JAIL

Once again the prison system has been coming under attack.....for being too slack!! The suicide of serial killer Fred West, the two days of riots at Everthorpe Jail, and the escapes from Parkhurst and Littlehey, brought forth the usual howling about how our prisoners are living in luxury at our expense. Caviar and ice cream, drugs and booze freely available.....The Parkhurst Governor and a few screws there were made scapegoats but the real losers will of course be the prisoners. As anyone who's been inside, or has had relatives, friends etc inside, will know, Britain's prisons are not some Butlins experience. The majority of time in jail is boring, frustrating, intensely isolating and often violent. Brutality from screws, hierarchies among prisoners, and the special twisted logic of prison rules...No wonder 1000s of prisoners turn to drugs ands alcohol or get wound up into self-harm; as on the outside, it's to relieve the boredom and give yourself a buzz. The 50 or so prisoners who kill themselves each year - not Fred Wests but teenagers, mostly - ask them how easy prison life is. Specifically the stuff about the luxury food etc is bollocks. It's just not true.

It's a fact that working people, divided and kept down by a system which robs us of our lives, who end up in prison, not the rich and powerful who manage to get away with mass murder (war), daylight robbery (price rises, fuel taxes), extortion (forcing us to work for them day in and out), and brutalising us with their competitive culture . Its true many of us turn out violent and fucked up, and this can't be ignored. But they are amateurs - the professionals are quickly recruited into the army, police , security firms etc. This isn't to say we shouldn't be dealing with rapists, racists, violent husbands, 'muggers' etc. Certainly the cops don't, and prison doesn't. People just come up out more fucked up. But its noticeable: the howls of outrage only came when prisoners are out of control:when they riot or escape. As if we're going to lie down and take everything without fighting back.

Violence and resistance are part of the to and fro of prison (and outside) life. Yes, when more restrictions and petty oppression is pushed onto Everthorpe inmates they fought back : that's the history of class society. If they push us we should be pushing back. Every so often there are these scares and life is made tougher for prisoners. But with the current fad for locking more people up, prison numbers are rocketing, and the more they shove people into confined spaces and increase petty harassment the more they will get resistance.

PRISON NEWS...PRISON NEWS...PRISON

Phil de Sousa was nicked recently and has pleaded guilty to riot (Sec 1 Public Order Act) for actions at the Welling anti-fascist demo in October 1993. He's awaiting sentence, also is facing charges for the Hyde Park CJB demo. He would like letters of support - he could be inside for a while. Write to:

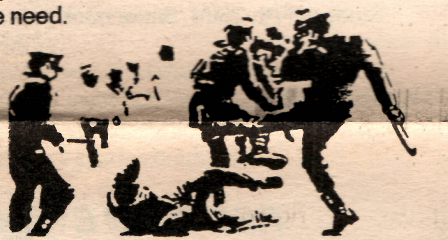
Phil de Sousa, EJ3496, HM Prison Elmley, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12. Also there is a bloke called Paul, who was on remand for Hyde Park in Brixton Prison. Anyone know who he is or if he wants support? Get in touch. Other cases from Hyde park are due to come up in April/May. **Contact the Park Lane Defence Campaign, c/o Coalition against the CJB, 136 Kingsland High St, London, E8.**

Meanwhile December was a good month for getting released. **Carol Peters**, jailed for stabbing her abusive and violent husband in self-defence in 1990, was freed by the Court of Appeal. **Colly Wilson**, framed by the cops for armed robbery in 1992, who confessed after being denied sleep and a solicitor, also had his conviction quashed.

STOKEY KOPS KILL AGAIN

On December 16th Shiji Lapite, a 32 year-old political refugee from Nigeria, was chased and beaten by Stoke Newington cops, later dying in custody. Reports say up to 15 cops were involved but only 2 have been suspended. The first his familly knew about his death was through a friend who saw it on the News.

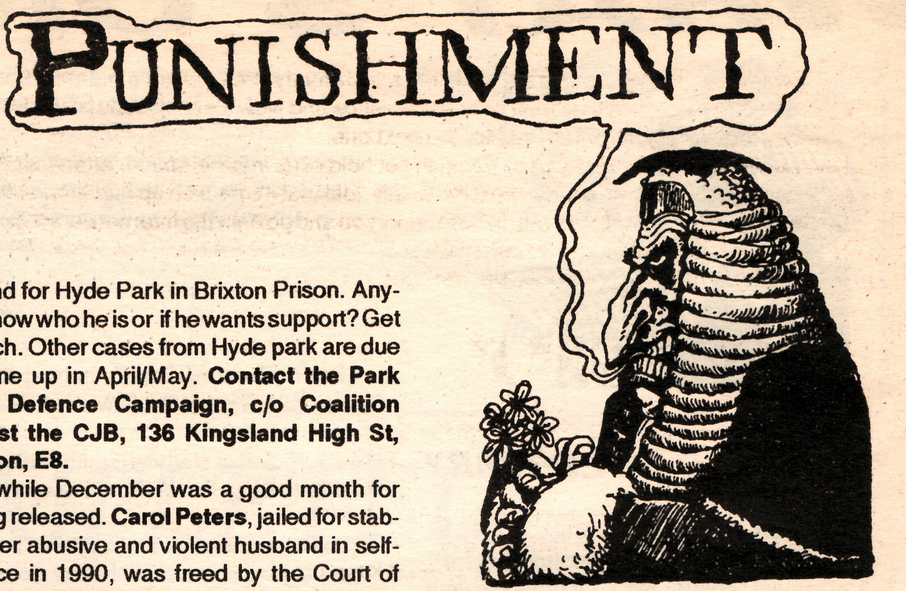
Death in the custody of Stokey kops is nothing new - there was Aseta Simms in 71, Michael Ferreira in 78, Colin Roach in 83 and Tunay Hassan in 87. There was also Vandana Patel who was killed when, instead of protecting her from her violent, abusive husband, they left them in a room together. This in addition to their drug dealing and general corruption. Hackney Community Defence Association have been demanding an enquiry into policing in Hackney, but Home Secretary Howard doesn't see the need.



An angry picket of Stokey Cokey copshop a week later, called by the Newham Monitoring Project, brought a couple of hundred people despite the freezing fog, and not just the normal politicos. The cops were very quiet, with only a token presence outside the police station, and when the demo took over the road, they stopped the traffic for ages and made no attempt to interfere. they must be worried, but then so are many of the people of Hackney.

COPS GET PAY-OUT

The Camden New Journal has paid out £30,000 to 8 Kentish Town cops, and printed an apology to them. But they also printed a long article on how they had to make this settlement as the libel laws are stacked against them. The cops were involved in the violent arrest of a black woman, and grabbing of her young children at the local LEB office (see Cf 7) and they get money for "damages"!



LEGAL DEFENCE

As reported in Contraflow 12, the London-based Legal Defence and Monitoring group is being set up, to provide legal support for demonstrations in the London area, especially in the light of the Criminal Justice Act. The LDMG's aims are:-

1. Monitor and record police actions on demonstrations and other actions/events of political resistance to the state etc;
2. Provide legal support: handing out bust-cards, a phone hotline, solicitors on call, and observers to take names of anyone arrested, potential witnesses;
3. Provide follow-up support for anyone arrested, charged or held against their will by the cops;
4. Monitor court cases arising from arrests;
5. Help anyone arrested, harassed or attacked by police take action, eg suing for damages;
6. Publish and distribute relevant information.

The LDMG will not condemn or criticise actions taken by demonstrators, this isn't their job. Their job is to help people defend themselves in the face of state oppression, to try to get the best we can of a legal system obviously loaded against us.

The LDMG hopes that for any event it attends it will provide full back up of legal observers, phone line for people nicked, solicitors. But it can only do this with the support and involvement of like-minded people. It needs volunteers to be legal observers (you don't have to be a legal eagle, the people involved aren't, we're just people with experience of arrest and fighting back!), to operate phones, attend court cases. Also we could do with a lot of cash as the work is starting to cost already; and if anyone has spare office stuff, stationery, the odd computer lying about, or names of good solicitors, please get in touch. We are facing a fierce tightening of already biased laws, and for too long already the cops have had it mostly their way. But they do make mistakes, or can be beaten in many cases, if we put our minds to it. It's time to turn the tables.

CONTACT THE LEGAL DEFENCE & MONITORING GROUP, BM HAVEN, LONDON, WC1N 3XX. TEL 081 802 9804. They hope to be up and running by March 1st.

Dec '94 - from our Sports Correspondent

except one who didn't see him, sending the custodian of our fun back onto the pavement.

At this stage, we're riding tight, we've got whistles and we ain't scared of shit (we just ride around it). My daughter is screeching out two tones on a harmonica like we're on the way to a fire. Animosity from car drivers is greeted with two finger wave and smile. I can't believe riding my two wheeled gelding can be so subversive. Rude words from another car head, just smile from me, but shouts from a few cyclists.

We reached Tooley street as the lights changed to red. We don't care! We all go across. By now some of the cyclists are smoking cigarettes and threatening to stay up all night. By Tower Bridge we're totally, like totally in control. Spontaneous chants of 'Tower Bridge is our bridge!' are accompanied by the car horns of sympathetic cars in our wake. The bridge isn't wide enough for them to overtake, and we took the piss! Our speed fell, until grannies whizzed pass on the pavement. OurLondon, my London! I was riding with my daughter across on of this city's most famous landmarks, free from the fear of us both becoming accident statistics. I caught the eye of a cycling buddy, we just laughed. The car horns were deafening at this stage we rang our bells in agreement. To quote the bard; 'What a great traffic system, it's so right!'

All was not well though. As we left the bridge on of the more affected motorists overtook us, with scant regard for our safety. I wondered if he had read the braille version of the highway code. This renegade from the penile compensation Support Group proceeded to pass us at about 40 mph in second gear! In the safety of his metal box, he was angry, and he was going to take it out on his vehicle. I laughed out loud as I saw him stop at the red light by the Royal Mint just 40 yards ahead. I laughed as we caught him up, preparing our insults under our breaths. I thought what a dick head as I saw his reverse light flash, thinking that the pratt couldn't even find first gear as he sat at the lights.

How wrong I was.

The next scene still defies belief. As we advanced on him, he let the clutch out, still in reverse. This was not going to be an accident. Road rage was going to mean more than just some daft media word. The wails of the front of the group still haunt me, like harpies in the cold London air, fraught with the impending doom that would change all our lives for ever (get on with it). he runs over the front wheels of about 6 bikes, coming within six feet of myself and my daughter. At this stage, I too was losing my temper. He sped off the short distance to the red light. We soon caught up. One bloke offered the driver out. As they danced under the streetlight, some of us set about fixing his car.

Unfortunately we didn't have the manual, nor the correct service tools, so we used our wits, and our D locks. The driver of this custom car then realised what an idiot he was making of himself. He had to go. Quickly. Off through a red light, up Minories. I pedalled after him as far as Aldgate, until my daughter shouted 'Whee going fast!', then I realised perhaps I couldn't do much on my own, even if I had caught up. I returned to the group to find much noting of number plates, and writing of damage sustained.

One of the liberals who cried 'keep it fluffy!' as we (they) steamed the car had called the police, everyone was booking for damages sustained to their bikes, a few were even trying to fill in claim forms for sickness benefit, the rain was pissing down, the police were on their way. Perhaps now was a good time to leave. A rather sudden ending to '94.

CONTRAFLUFFY EXCLUSIVE

It took months of trying Mercury numbers until the intrepid Contraflow reporters finally found the ellusive Spurious Tripe - organisers of a thousand rip off benefit raves - sunning themselves on the Costa Del Crustie. All this followed years of rip offs organised by the erstwhile right on "Spurious Tripe" skwot capitalists. We are sick to death of benefits for groups that don't exist or who never get to see their money - raves where basic health and safety is ignored - not because of lack of money or the problems of squatting but because these bastards want to make a killing. The Spurious Tripe and those like them are class enemies as surely as the police and the bosses - no less, no more!

The following was transcribed waiting for our courier flight back ...

Spurious Tripe member [ST] : Got a skin mate?

Contraflow [CF] :[Blinking from the unaccustomed sun]

ST: Nice weather eh? better than the poor sucks back in England are getting eh? ... [getting worried] who are you - I'm not signing on - you're not from the Child Support are you?

CF: Look actually we're here to interview you for Contraflow.

ST: That violent rag! Worse still! [Gumping noises as scumbag is tied down and truth serum administered] keep it fluffy won'tcha?

CF: So how'd you get the readies to be here then.

ST: We just ran parties - like for homelessness groups and that.

CF: These groups -care to name 'em?

ST: Urgh ... I had one to many Es ... anyway, always got the bouncers to thump anyone who asked us that ... nah I remember one - Squatters Campaign Against Monopoly.

CF: That sounds like a bit of a scam to us {like playing monopoly really..} ... more like you ran parties for non existant groups.

ST: Well it's better than running non existant parties for real groups - or are you just boring politicos?

CF: [defensively] Since when has dancing round a ghetto blaster been a good time?And who benefits?

ST: You could - here's £20 to let us go.

CF: We're not that cheap.

ST: Wanna bet?

CF: What about how you removed water taps at your venues so that people can't get a free drink?

ST: You anarchists just don't understand - we've got the interests of our sevice users ...

CF: Punters?

ST: Yeah - the "service users'" interests are what we've got at heart - can't have them drinking filthy London tap water - so we sell 'em Evian for £1 a pop. Now everything's post modern - we can all access the more elevated culture ...

CF: You sound like yuppi scum to us - all that management nuspeak crap. Are the rumours that you joined the Tories so as to get raves banned, so that you could charge more, true?

ST: Nah bollox - did you see the tossers who turnered up to that Portillo rave at Alexandra Palace -wouldn't be seen dead with that bunch of nerds - we joined the Labour Party - that way, the CJB will stay forever - we've got the vision thing - better than your NHS specs.

Well, we left him trussed up to a rock, hoping that with the ozone hole and that he'd become a lobster.. If only he'd offered us £100 quid -it could have all been different!

WHAT'S ON

FEBRUARY

• **Thurs 9**. Rights Now lobby of MPs for disabled rights bill. 1-3pm, Westminster Hall, Parliament Square, SW1. Or organise your own event if you can't go, outside innacessible places for disabled (just about anywhere!). Tel GLAD 071 274 0107 for more info.

• **Thurs 9.** Discussion about german Article 129a repression law& its effects on the anti-fascist movement. 121 Centre, 121 Railton rd, Brixton, 9pm (after the cafe).

• **Sat 11.** Anti Criminal Justice Act demo, Birmingham. Assemble Victoria Square, town centre, 12 noon. Followed by allnighter with Test Dept & Zion Train, acid/deep house, dub, chillout space & cinema, £7/£8. 021 4495452 for info.

• Demo to save Chest Hospital, 12 noon, Weavers Fields, Bethnal Green, East London.

• '1926 Committee' (ex-Proles) Gig, at Ructions,Cock Tavern, Phoenix Rd, Kings Cross, NW1. 8pm, late bar.

• **Wed 15.** "Shut em Down" - Anti-Nuclear Network Picket of Nuclear Industry Conference, Royal Lancs Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, W2 (Lancs Gate tube).

• **Thurs 16**. First anniversary of eviction of Wanstonia by M11 developers. Action planned. Tel M11 Campaign,081 5582638.

• Cheshire Freedom Network Day of Action/party. Tel 01270 6535.

Fri 17-Sun19. Midlands Anti-Criminal Justice Act Conference, in Rugby. Tel 0788 817786.

• **Fri 17**. Benefit for animal sanctuary, Lewisham Labour Club, Limes Grove,SE13. 8pm. With fine local band Bosh.

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• **Sat 18**. National meeting of Public Services Workers Network, anyone working in public sector & into making trouble welcome. Red & Black Club (see contacts) , 1pm.

• **Sun 19**. Anti Criminal Justice Act ramble/trespass in Windsor . Tel 081 801 5285.

• **Mon 20**. Filmshow at Red & Black Club. 'Viva Maria': comedy about the mexican revolution starring Brigitte Bardot! 8pm.

• **Wed 22**. Open meeting on hunt sabbing, 7.30 pm, Red & Black Club (see contacts).

• **Fri 24.** Critical Mass: cycle demo against car-domination of city streets. Meet 5.45pm, the Bullring, Waterloo, SE1. Plus there's one in Cardiff: 6.30pm at City Hall.

• **Sat 25.** Dayschool, 'Resisting the Giant', campaign against British Aerospace arms dealing. 10-5, United Reform Church, 86 Tavistock Place, WC1. Tel Chris 071 2759150.

• Close down Campsfield immigration Detention Centre demo, Campsfield, near Oxford, 12 noon.

• Anti-M77 demo, Pollock, Glasgow. 041 2759150.

MARCH

• **3-17.** British Leg of Nuclear Free World, visiting nuclear sites in UK. Tel David 071 6072302.

• **Sat 4.** 'Dead by Dawn' technoparty, 121 Railton rd, Brixton SE24. 9pm til morning.

• **Mon 6.** Picket for Malcolm Kennedy, 6pm, Hammersmith Copshop, Shepherds Bush Rd, W6.(see 6 Feb)

•**Tues 7.** Protest against 'Defence Export Services' Symposium. Queen Elizabeth Centre, opposite Parliament. Tel CAAT 071 281 0297.

• **Tues 14**. Action at Solsbury Hill, near Bath, against roadbuilding. 11am on hilltop. Anniversary of Battle of Solsbury Hill.

• **Sat 25.** Demo against Campsfield Detention Centre, at Campsfield, near Oxford, 12 noon.

• **Fri 31**. Critical Mass: rowdy cyclists hold west end to ransom. 5.45pm, the Bullring, Waterloo, SE1.(see 24 Feb).

• **31-1 April.** Disabled People's Direct Action Network national action, targetting new euro-transport mogul Kneel Kinnock - asking the question:"Whatcha gonna do for disabled access, Pillock?" Tel. DAN 081 8891361

APRIL

• **Sat 1.** 'Dead By Dawn', technoparty at 121 Centre, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, SE24. 9pm till morning.

• **Mon 3.** Picket of Hammersmith Police Station, Shepherds Bush Rd. W6 for Malcolm Kennedy, 6pm.

• **Tues 11.** Picket of first Criminal Justice Act cases go to court, Manchester Crown Court. 061 2747665.

• **Sat 15.** 40th anniversary of McDonalds. International day of action. Contact McLibel Support Campaign, 071 713 1269.

• **Sun 16**. British capitalists impose new phone codes. Give us back our lost 01s!

• **Mon 17.** Mass civil disobedience action, Central London. Tel CND (071 6073616).

• **Thurs 20.** Protest Against British-Saudi 'al Yamamah' arms deal. Oxford St, WC1, 12.30 - 2pm.

• **28-30.** Shut Sellafield nuke power plant action. Tel 0706 371387.

• **Fri 28.** Critical Mass. Mass bike anger in central London. Meet the Bullring, Waterloo, 5.45.

• **Sat 29.** Demo against Campsfield detention centre, noon.

JUNE

• **1st-10th** anniversary of the battle of the Beanfield, massacre of travellers by Wiltshire police. Walk to Stonehenge from London, then allegedly there's going to be a free festival at the Stones (17th-25th). Better pack your crash helmet.

• **15-26**. Food Not Bombs Gathering in San Francisco. There's an idea to have a free food distribution in London to coincide. Anyone interested contact Contraflow.

REGULAR EVENTS

• Every Thursday, 7pm: 121 Cafe, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London SE24. Dead cheap food.

• Every Thursday: radical queers OutRage meet, 7.30, YWCA Central Club, 16-22 Great Russell St, WC1.

• The McLibel Trial of 2 London Greenpeace activists under attack from food giant McDonalds for telling the truth about its exploitative, unhealthy, capitalist nastiness. Most days at the High Court, The Strand, WC1. Tel 0171 7131269.

international

NIGERIAN LIBERTARIANS NEED HELP

The Nigerian Awareness League, a 1000-strong revolutionary syndicalist organisation, is appealing for practical support from revolutionaries here. They are currently involved in agitating and spreading anarchist propaganda, in a country with a military dicattorship and on the brink of civil war. Recently Awareness League members were detained along with leftwing politicians, and other activists.

The Awareness League is growing and organising, but they have asked for practical solidarity in the form of: condoms; safe sex/AIDS awareness literature; first aid kits; rehydration salts; musictapes; political literature, especially anarchist/class struggle stuff; money.

As the Awareness League is currently banned by the government, all stuff is being forwarded via the **Red & Black Club, Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Rd, London, SE14.**

Doing it for themselves!

ΞΕΝΟΔΟΚΕΙΟ

On the streets of Haiti, only in the areas occupied by the Yankies were the soldiers and police of the former regime given half a chance - apart from that 100 miles of the north was liberated without the help of the US army. As the months have gone on a large amount of land has been seized by peasant co-ops - leaving the incoming [and returning] Aristide government with a fait accompli. And in the hills of Chiapas, central America, dual power has also developed, with many towns pledging allegiance to the Zapatista backed movement rather than the central government. A syndicalist peasants union, the Union of Agricultural Workers [CIOAC], has declared selfrule and helped organise massive land seizures. Education has also been placed under popular control - teachers are to "work out an educational project that matches the need of the indigenous community," or be expelled The response of the local ruling class has been classic - the leader of the ranchers has gone on hunger strike demanding 'their' land back. It's nice to see hamburger growers going hungry and teachers getting expelled, eh?

EURO RACISM

The European Race Audit chronicles news of racist attacks, official or unofficial across the continent, plus bits of resistance. The following are brief summaries from Bulletin 11:

In France, the state used attacks by Islamic rebels in Algeria in August as an excuse for a massive clampdown on Algerians and Isliamic people. In only 11 days some 30,000 people were stopped and searched, creating an effective curfew. Less than 1.5% were held for questioning, mainly in relation to immigration or driving offences. 25 people were interned, of whom 20 were deported, and others placed under house arrest. These were meant to be the hard-core "fundamentalists", like the one whose grocers shop sold pork! 5 publications have been banned.

Black britons with one year passports are not being allowed into France, or onto the ferries who can be fined for carrying passangers with inadequate documentation.

From Germany, a whole series of attacks and murders, police disinterest and deaths of asylum seekers in custody. the heairs of the company that built the crematoria for Auschwitz and other death camps are trying to use legislation from the unification to claim back property confiscated by the East German state.

Reports from Spain include one of a riot in a church near Granada, where the christian folk shouted "no money for black people" when told the Sunday collection was going to Rwanda. Other reports include numerous attacks on asylum seekers in the west and Romany people in the east. UK reports include the death of a black woman after an arson attack in Leyton, and police refusal to recognise it as a racist attack.

the European Race Audit comes from the Institute for Race Relations (who also produce Race & Class - also well worth a read) 2-6 Leeke St, London WC1X 9HS

JUDGE DREDD
BY JOHN WAGNER ALAN GRANT & IAN GIBSON
TODAY COUNCILLOR FIRCHLEY PEPP EXCHANGES HIS LUXY PENT-APT FOR A SLUM BLOCK IN MEGA-CITY'S ROUGHEST GHETTO—
RICH BOZO LIKE YOU WALKS IN THERE ALONE, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE TARGET FOR EVERY DISAFFECTED KOOK IN THE BLOCK.
NONSENSE! I THINK I KNOW THE PEOPLE BETTER THAN YOU, JUDGE DREDD.
I'M DETERMINED TO FIND OUT HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVE.
THUNK!
CHOP!
STAB!
CRASHHH!
NOW YOU KNOW
2000

Contacts:

these groups are all fairly cool and are actually doing stuff that we think is going somewhere. Get involved and help yourself!

•**Advisory Service for Squatters,** 2 St Pauls Rd, N1, 071 359 8814. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm.useful practical advice, the law etc.

• **SQUASH**, same address as above, tel 071 226 8938. Squatters campaigning against changes in the law.

• **121 Centre**, 121 Railton Rd, Brixton, London, SE24. 071 274 6655. Squatted anarchist space: bookshop, meetings, parties, squatting, free info. Open 1-5 Sat, but ring to check.

• **56a Info Shop**, 56 Crampton St, London SE17. Squatted radical bookstore and more. Open Mon,Thurs,Fri, 3-7pm. Action, books, mags, records, posters and cool reading space full of current and obscure @ mags and booklets.

• **London Class War**, PO Box 467, London, E8 3QF. Active rousing revolutionary group, help to produce the populist 'Class War' paper.

• **Schnews**, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton. Weekly anti-Criminal Justice Act newssheet. Donation, send SAE.

• **Bad Attitude**, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24 (£1/SAE) Radical women's paper with international perspective and great news coverage. New issue out verrrry soon.

• **Colin Roach Centre**, 10a Bradbury St, London, N16. Space uniting Hackney Trade Union Support Unit, squatters, Hackney Community Defence Campaign, Lesbian/Gay festival organisers, and other local revos and activists. Tel

• **Direct Action Network** (London and national contact), 3 Crawley Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6AN. Tel/FAX 081 889 1361. Disability rights organisation, militant and regularly out on the street. Produce briiliant newsletter. Also have groups **in most cities.**

• Haringey Solidarity Group, PO Box 2474, London, N8 0HW. Involved in community/social struggles: dole, anti-VAT on Fuel, anti-Red Routes.Publish 'Community Action' newssheet.

• **Anti Nuclear Network**, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd, N4. Direct Action against nukes/nuke power,publish newsletter.

• **Red and Black Club**, Unit 7, Theatre Place, 489 New Cross Road, Deptford, SE8. Local space run by members of the Solidarity Federation (anarcho-syndicalists), who want to see it used as a resource centre and organising/social/resistance space. Open Monday/Tuesday eves, 7-9, and Saturday mornings. They also need moolah to pay the rent.

• **FareDodgers Liberation Front**, Box FDLF, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24. Info and organising against tube penalty fares, well in fact any fares. Send SAE for info leaflet.

• **Anarchist Black Cross**, c/o 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24. Support group for prisoners/prison struggles. Produce 'Taking Liberties' bulletin.